

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN DIASPORA SINCE 1972

THE **ONYX**

men Freshmen Freshmen Freshmen Freshmen

SEPT 2002

FRESH MEAT

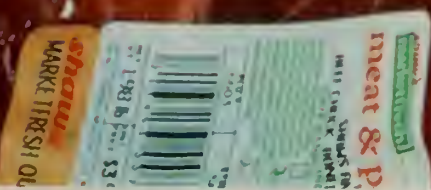
THE BLACK FRESHMAN SURVIVAL KIT

**TUSKEGEE
REVISITED**
IS MEDICINE MOVING
WITHOUT US???

A DECAYING ECONOMY
AMONGST THE YOUTH

**SUMMER
BUDGET
CUTS**

POWERED BY: **Dem Darn YoE boys**
ANGUS BEEF



Inside This Edition

News.....Pg.04

04 Letter to the Freshmen

Big Sister Anissia Gives You the 411 To Success

05 Letter to the Freshmen Men

Mo, Day and Treas are looking Out for the Fellas

06 Letter to the Freshmen Girls

Fallon is looking out for the Sisters

08 *Doing it at the Park*

Hip Hop For the Community

09 The African American Institute

A Diamond In the Ruff

Health.....Pg.10

10 Tuskegee Revisited

Is Medicine Moving Without Us?

12 *Mass Sees Increase In Teen STD Cases*

Da Hot Spots.....Pg.14

A mini index of the hot spots beyond campus borders.

Business.....Pg.18

18 Summer Jobs: Budget Cuts

19 Start Up Money (S.U.M.)

Edutainment.....Pg.20

20 Track By Track: J Live

22 Mad 500: Tell Em Why You Mad Son...

Hang or Bang

Ms. Nubian: Giving her two cents by request

Speak Out.....pg.24

24 Bora Revised

25 Diary of an NU Grad

26 Spain Paine

27 Surveying Our Community

Volume 30, Issue 4

ONYX INFORMER

430 Curry Student Center

360 Huntington Ave.

Boston MA, 02115

617.373.2250

onyxinformer@yahoo.com

Executive and Editorial Board

Ibiere Seck

Daitwan David

Jennifer Kimbrel

Octavia Ramsey

Jovia Leveille

Justin Brown

Treasure Neal

Ellis Reid

Editor In Chief

Managing Editor

Admin. Assistant

Copy Editor

Copy Editor

Business Manager

Layout Editor

Photo Editor

Onyx Staff

Maurice Archer

Fallon Depina

Anissia Duncan

Tyeese Gaines

Marlies G.

Nema Jackson

Jose Masso

Charlyn Minor

Alexandria Mitchener

Petula Paine

Sade Ruffin

Candice J. Shaw

Janelle Woods

Media Adviser

Sandra Miller

The Opinions and feelings expressed in The Onyx Informer are not necessarily those of the Onyx staff or of the Northeastern administration. The Onyx is a monthly publication run by undergraduate students who oversee all aspects and operations involving this publication.

2002 - The Onyx Informer - All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the Onyx Informer.

Letter From the Editor

It was cool out, but not too cold. I was wearing jeans a wool sweater and a black and red flannel coat my aunt had bought for me before I left.

"Boston's a cold city and the people are a lot like the weather," she said. "Don't get all upset if they don't take a liking to you right away, now. Just pay them no mind. Do well in school and you'll be fine." My freshman year. I remember it like it was yesterday. I Landed at Boston's Logan Airport after an eight-hour direct flight from Seattle, Washington, completely unaware of what was in store. Although my family had done what we thought was a thorough job in preparing physically, emotionally and financially for college, I was far from being well equipped.

When leaving for or entering college most students are bombarded with advice. You've probably heard at least one of these:

- Stay focused. You're going to college to study, not to socialize*
- Act like you've got some home training*
- Don't forget where you came from and the people who helped you get where you are*
- Get yourself a trunk that locks and*
- Don't get caught up messing around with girls/boys. Save that nonsense until you're through with school.*
- Don't waste my money*
- Save your money*
- Put God first*
- Call home*

But why is it that no one ever told me that I would have to PAY for my own books or that simply sitting in the back of the class and turning in assignments was only the minimum for passing a class?

Why is it that no one ever told me that financial packages are multifaceted with three primary roles - First, to get you to attend college (bait), incentive to keep you in college (benefits) and traps to keep you paying up to 10 years after college (bills - paying back loans)?

Why is that no one ever told me that five years can feel like two?

These are some of the questions that I and many other upperclassmen have pondered since the end our first year.

This is why this issue is dedicated to YOU - the class of 2007 (which has lovingly been dubbed the "Double-O-Sevens" aka Bondmen and Bondwomen). The Onyx welcomes you to Northeastern University.

In these pages you'll hear the voices of students who, like you, found themselves in a different city/new environment, surrounded by strangers, naive, working D-Shifts, perfecting the NU-shuffle, getting played by Sally Mae (you'll know soon enough all that I'm referring to) and lost with out your barber/hairdresser and good home cooking. So I leave you with this advice:

- Take advantage of all campus resources*
- Hit up the "Hotspots"*
- Be visible on campus and don't be afraid your to get your hands a little dirty*
- Associate with people other than those who live in your dorm, on your floor or in your room*
- Read books other than those assigned by your professors*
- Study Abroad (Ghana, West Africa is nice)*
- Leave Boston whenever you can*
- Be on a first-name basis with your professors*

Good luck. We're expecting y'all to hold it down. So make us proud.

Peace and many blessings,

Ibiere Seck

Editor in Chief - The Onyx Informer



Letter to the Freshmen Women

Attention all freshmen girls.

The following has been written for your benefit and should be adhered to without hesitation or complaint. Don't be scared. This is just a collection of tips that I have compiled from upperclassmen girls who wish to help. My goal is to enlighten you so that you do not make the same mistakes that I have witnessed countless other freshman girls make. Most people are unlucky enough to have to learn from their mistakes, but if you follow this advice, there won't be any mistakes for you to learn from.

So grab a highlighter, sit back, read, and learn.

BOYS

- Dump your long distance boy friend now. Trust me it ain't gonna work!
- No college boyfriends until winter quarter midterms. You just dumped your man why are you already trying to get a new one?
- Make friends with boys first. They inevitably show their shady ways, it's only a matter of time
- If he calls after 3:00am, than yes dear it is officially a booty call
- He is too good to be true
- Avoid athletes, there are some good ones it's just that no one has met one yet
- Nothing below the torso before winter quarter. You'll thank me later
- Wrap it up because *bootie cooties are never attractive

PARTIES

- Avoid "the Frat" house at ALL cost
- If you don't know your "limit" keep it to one drink
- Don't be "that girl"
- "That girl" is the one who has to have her friend hold her braids back while she vomits in the toilet
- Watch your drink because I am sure someone else is watching it too and waiting to put something in it
- Do your work before you go out to party. Flunking out of school your first year is never cute

ON CAMPUS CHILL SPOTS

- On campus chill spots are a lot like high school. Every one will know and spread your business in there, so be careful

DORM LIFE

- Random roommate selection is the work of the devil so expect that your roommate will suck
- Establish room rules as early as possible to avoid fights
- Understand that you do not need to be friends, you just need to respect each other
- Do not move your man into your room
- Establish a relationship with your RA
- If you get caught by your RA it is your fault, just be smart

UPPER CLASSMEN GIRLS

- Become friends with them before they decide that they don't like you
- Don't try so hard, it makes them mad, and it is how they can tell that you're freshmen in the first place. Who else would rock banana curls to their 8' o'clock lab?
- Remember you're a freshman again, you still have to pay your dues
- Wearing make-up at the gym or barely any clothes at the Caf makes upper classmen girls really angry
- Don't be stank

JOBS

- Get a job because you'll want to do something good during spring break.
- Definitely do something for spring break. After your freshman year it won't be so easy to take advantage of

THE FRESHMEN 15

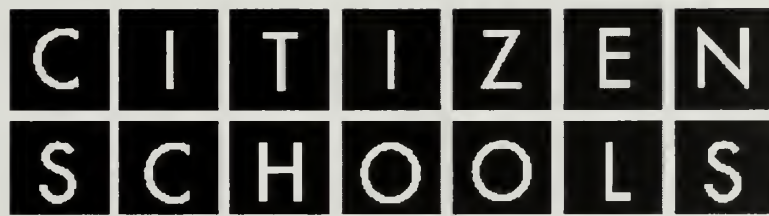
- Don't stay in the caf longer than an hour
- The Marino center is your friend. Even if you don't like to work out at least go there to look at the boys because there are always some cuties there
- Do not fall victim to the dreaded 'itis
- Dessert is not necessary
- Avoid the meatballs

Well these are the rules. They've kept a lot of people out of trouble and hopefully they will be of some use to you. So when you see an upperclassman girl, say thank you, because she most likely played a role in the making of this list.

Have fun and enjoy your time here while it lasts. Soon you too will be laughing at the incoming freshman girls and thanking heaven that you aren't one of them any longer.

*With love,
Fallon DePina*

The views of Fallon Depina do not necessarily reflect those of the Onyx Informer but we understand. To respond, please e-mail us at onyxinformer@yahoo.com



seeks talented & dynamic educators

to work part-time as Teaching Associates
during the school year with 9-14 year old students!!

- :Experience working with young adults required, experience teaching preferred.
- :Academic year program runs from mid-September to late December and from mid-January to late May.
- :15-30 hour weekly time commitment with a 3-4 day weekly schedule.
- :Program operates daily from 1-6 with a slightly earlier or later start time at a few campuses.
- :Program located at 12 campuses across Greater Boston.
- :Compensation is \$10/hr in the first two semesters.
- :Cooperative opportunities & Internships also available.
- :**Candidates with a BA/BS and multiple semester experience would be ideal candidates for the *Citizen Schools Teaching Fellowship Program.***

**If you have an interest in education and community building,
do not pass up this amazing opportunity!*

Qualified candidates are encouraged to visit our website, complete the on-line application and send a cover letter and resume to:

Gail Sidney
Talent Specialist
308 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02210
Phone: 617-695-2300 x-144
Fax: 617-695-2637

Or via e-mail to gailsidney@citizenschools.org

Citizen Schools is an equal opportunity employer.

For more information, visit our website at
www.citizenschools.org

DOING IT IN THE PARK

Words: Marie Gelissen
Frames: Elin Nor

Two weeks ago on August 17th at Peters Park in the south end of Boston, Massachusetts, local residents came together to celebrate hip hop during what may now be the genre's most crucial turning point. All the elements of hip-hop were recreated and brought together on a gorgeous day of urban awakening for the 1st Annual "Doing it in the Park" Celebration to promote hip hop and nonviolence in a positive fashion. Many of the attendees were young adults seeking to participate in the event. Some came out of curiosity while others either brought their own spray cans or at least a rhyme or two. Watching the effort and enthusiasm that these kids brought to the park turned the heads of many of the older participants. Ellis Reid, one of the coordinators of the event and Content Editor/Production Director for Redeye Magazine, stated, "I think this is a real positive step for hip hop...this is one of the first major steps to really put this place on the map in regards to hip-hop. There's mad talent out here but there's just not the market for it so what we're gonna do is create the market."

A group of students from Artists for Humanity came together to spray paint their artistic talents on a wooden panel from the time the sun came up

till it was time to pack up and go home. When their graffiti piece was finally completed everyone stood back in amazement. Robert Gibbs, a teacher at Artists for Humanity says, "in the literal sense these cats knew what they wanted and they worked hard to get it. They took every bit of advantage of their time and they made it happen..." There were also other younger heads collaborating and coming up with a lot of really nice styles.

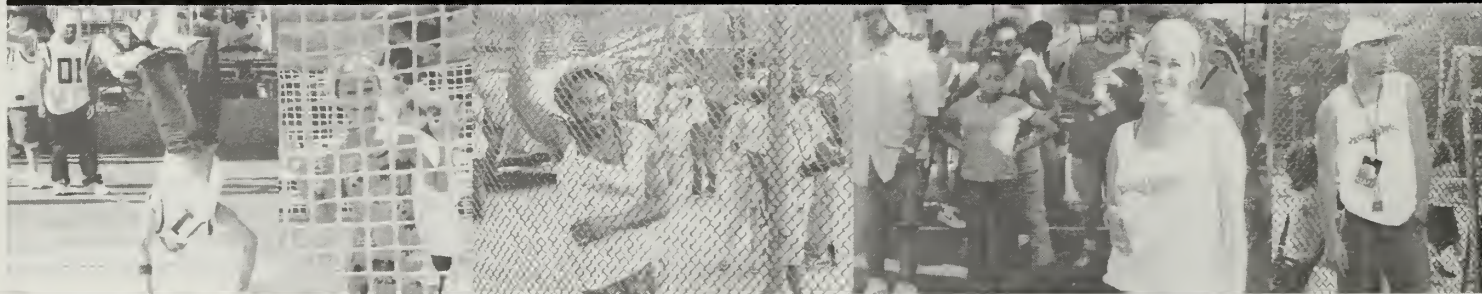
The major production that was going on above them was being done by ALA, Boston's graffiti crew, in collaboration with other guest crews from areas like New York, Canada, and Philadelphia.

At the other end of the park, emcees were vocally sweating out their own raw talents. As DJ Therion was spinning, you had kids from all sections of the city putting down some hot rhymes. Two prominent and upcoming young emcees, Kiki Breevlife and E-Telligent kept the pace of one of hip-hop's truest pastimes: the battle. The crowds did not hesitate to cheer on the two as they freestyled for a good 4 rounds. It was a new experience to see parents not having to block their child's ears from explicit lyrics that are often heard in today's mainstream

music industry. Liza Pimentel from Gala Graffix who also participated in the event says, "everybody loved it, and it was a beautiful event. It was great to see the kids come out and to see hip hop back in its original form."

It was true that the event, which began at 11am and ended at 8pm, ran no less than perfect. It Bees like that Entertainment kept the turntables on blast and kept the entire area alive and hopping with a nice mix of old and new school hip hop. When the temperature started to cool down the linoleum came out and the Floorlords, Boston's official break dancing crew, pumped the crowd with an upbeat performance.

When speaking to Gibbs about the outcome of Doing it in the Park his response to the event was hopeful, "Its about time. This city is taking responsibility for hip-hop culture. We always see venues in other cities where they have huge shows for break dancing and emceeing. Being that we are trying to do it in Boston I think that's mad futuristic the fact that cats are making new traditions by actually doing it. And at least they got exposure to seeing it done in a safe environment where people can see how it's really done."



Northeastern University
John D. O'Bryant
African-American Institute
40 Leon Street

THE AAI: A DIAMOND IN THE RUFF

Words: Octavia Ramsey
Frames: Ellis Reid

Nestled between newly designed and built facilities of iridescent glass and steel, obsessively manicured lawns, and mountains of dust stands the AAI. Despite the buildings' frail exterior, inside a plethora of academic, social, and cultural activities thrive.

The AAI was established in 1968. The building is comprised of classrooms, study rooms, a computer lab, staff offices, a library and lounge, recreational area, and a mini resource center.

On any given day the AAI facility and staff offer students access to a wealth of information and support systems. These include counseling and tutorial services, along with the Ujima Scholars Program that assist in insuring that students of African descent do not slip through the ever widening crack, falling short of their personal and communal goals.

Aside from offering students a space where they can develop academically, the AAI is a place where students can gain a greater awareness of their culture and the varying cultures of peoples of African descent. The walls are adorned with photographs, artwork, and tapestries that signify and express

the complexities of Black cultures. The AAI library functions as an academic and cultural center containing profuse amounts of knowledge concerning the African Diaspora. It is a place where students can extend their knowledge base of the world within and outside of them.

The AAI is also a place where students with various backgrounds and perspectives convene. At any given moment spontaneous conversations erupt concerning topics from university policy, local, national, and international politics, and religion, to business culture and ethics all the way to inexpensive spots to cop an album, meal, or some gear. The space serves as a place where students can share opinions, personal realities, and facts without feeling misunderstanding eyes rest on their thoughts or without having groups of ears dismiss their statements as rhetoric and complaining. It is a place where individuals' ideas aren't assumed to represent the ideology of the entire Black race.

The Institute serves as a surrogate mother to many students of African descent who would otherwise feel malnourished, misunderstood, miseducated, and ultimately abandoned.

PEACE OF MIND

Words: Octavia Ramsey
Frames: Ellis Reid

Startled white faces with eyes full of derisive stares, voices cracked against my skin like an old whip as burnt whispers clawed my back- what was this place?

My first few days as a Northeastern University student I felt as if I had been sentenced to life in a colorless hell, wherein the primary factor determining the exact hellishness of my sentence was the ability for the outside world to make sure that I encountered no one that looked, walked, talked anything like me, nor had they experienced similar oppressions or celebrations as I had.

Since The John D.O. Bryant African American Institute (AAI) had been conveniently omitted from the NU campus orientation tour, I was left to roam the counterfeit grass fields and concrete paths without direction; frantically I searched for someone Black like me.

Hope was diminishing; just as I was about to bid my roommate (who was fascinated with my hair and hair care products, etc) a disenchanted farewell, leaving a deep trail of smoky dust behind me as I flew back to Georgia, I came upon the AAI. I could feel red, orange, and yellow - vibrant energy stirred in me. When I opened the door I heard myself in many accents. I saw myself in many hues of black. I could smell Roxbury, the southern U.S., the Caribbean, and Africa seeping through the air.



THE ONLY HEALTH

TUSKEGEE REVISITED

IS MEDICINE MOVING WITHOUT US?

Words: Tyrese L. Gaines
Frames: Professional Grammar School Photographer



In 2002, medicine is moving at lightening speed. With new treatments, machinery, stem cell research and experimental treatments medical advancements are no longer few and far between. So, where do people of African descent fit in? Are we reaping the benefit of these advancements? Are we even represented in the research? The answer is no - especially when it comes to stem cell research.

According to the Washington Post, there is a strong chance that none of the stem cell lines are taken from people of African descent. Of the 64 cell lines, couples in South and East Asia donated 15 embryos. The remaining embryos are from Swedish, Israeli and US fertility centers where the patient populations are predominately White.

This lack of representation is important because stem cell research is becoming the answer to donor shortages - organs, tissue, or even skin grafts - and will eventually lead to medical breakthroughs

When stem cells are not harvested from people of African descent, a whole myriad of complications are created. Certain populations have immune systems that make it harder to accept foreign tissues. People of African descent are included in that group. Receiving tissue from a donor of the same descent can help decrease

the chances of the body rejecting it.

Clinical trials are just as important. They are offered in all areas from drug approval to nutrition. Before any drug or treatment can reach the market, clinical trials must occur. Participation in these trials can offer the subjects free treatment for their ailment, medical care, and the knowledge of helping their counterparts.

There is a need for clinical studies with populations of color. Although there has been a large push in science that all humans are genetically equal, there are certain diseases and ailments that only affect people of certain geographic areas. Sickle cell trait and disease affects inhabitants of areas with high malaria infection - such as Africa - and their descendants. Tay Sachs disease affects European Jews and their descendants. Drugs like codeine are not effective in some ethnic groups because of metabolic differences.

Thus, in matters of stem cell research, clinical trials, and other medical experiments, communities of color as a whole need to be more involved. The drugs and transplants they are testing now will be the same treatments they use to save the lives of people of color. Who knows when these genetic differences will cause a problem. At least while being studied, researchers are monitoring closely for allergic reactions or side affects.

Once these drugs are deemed safe and hit the market major advancements can be made. That is, if Blacks abandon

some of the stigmas attached to health care and see treatment.

A major problem lies in the mistrust that many Black men, particularly African-Americans, harbor for health care and medicine. According to a small survey of 15 Black men ages 21 to 40, none of the men are comfortable with participating in an experimental study - even with a promise of no side effects and monetary payment.

Interestingly, 15 percent of those surveyed said they would change their mind if a Black institution were conducting the study. Perhaps this correlates to the fact that nearly all of them had knowledge of the horrible Tuskegee Institute Natural Study of Syphilis that took place in the Black community decades ago but is still fresh in the minds of those who can recall the tragedy.

In 1932, the government funded an experiment at Tuskegee Institute - a historically Black institution - to study the natural progression of syphilis in Black men. This study continued for forty years, thirty years after penicillin was proven to be an effective treatment for the disease. The men believed they were being given the best treatment, when they were in fact receiving none. In addition they were blatantly prevented from receiving

penicillin. Even in the midst of their distrust for hospitals and doctors in the segregated south, these men believed the study had their best interest in mind because the head doctor and nurse were Black.

The Supreme Court ruled the Tuskegee experiment completely unethical and rewarded the living "syphilites" and the descendants of those deceased monetary sums. Five years ago, President Clinton publicly apologized for the atrocity.

Since the trial, many rules have been set into place governing clinical research. Institutional Review Boards judge whether projects are ethical before they begin. Some trials have Community Advisory Boards that review them as well. Obviously none of these measures have been enough to erase the skepticism. The effects of Tuskegee have extended beyond the 400 "syphilites".

The other issue of participation stems from racism in health care. Coy, 22, a DC schoolteacher comments, "[With] the history of racism in this country, Black people are never treated fairly. So why would I believe I would be equally cared for and receive the same quality as White people do, when everyday while I go to work I experience subtle racism?"

This was a common mindset some of the other men in the survey. A few had personal experiences with racism from non-Black physicians. Likewise, in addition to Tuskegee, it is hard to convince a group of people that in light of inappropriate treatment from regular physicians, they would be treated fairly in a study.

However, there are ways to protect oneself. Selecting a reputable institution is the first. Patients who decide to participate in studies should read all documentation, ask all questions, and do their research. The Internet is a great resource, as well as journal articles on the research topic. A second opinion from an outside physician is another option. Keep in mind, not all studies require medication or physical treatment. Some simply study normal daily activities of selected populations.

Essentially, a choice has to be made.

Underrepresented populations can either move with medicine or be left behind. While racial disparities in healthcare are a reality, being complacent only perpetuates the problem. Health issues particular to one ethnicity group cannot be studied and addressed if there is no participation in

research from that ethnicity. The responsibility to take action lies with both patients and physicians of color. Don't be left behind.

For more information on clinical trials, visit <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>

THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

LEGACY 2000

MENTORING/RETENTION PROGRAM

THE LATINO/A CULTURAL CENTER THE AFRICAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE

PRESENTS

A STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOP



GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR STUDY HABITS
Freshman strongly urged to attend!

When: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

Where: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE
(3RD - LIBRARY)
40 LEON STREET

Time: 11:45AM – 1:15PM

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED!

For more information please contact the Office of Special Support Services at 617-373-2787 or the Latino/a Cultural Center at 617-373-5845.

Mass Sees Increase In Teen STD Cases

Words: Ibiere Seck

Twenty-seven youth from neighboring Boston housing developments have gathered at Northeastern University's for their weekly Gear Up tutoring session. They sit with their hands folded and listen as a NU-student presenter speaks about the reality of unprotected and reckless sex.

Gear Up coordinators organized the informal presentation in order to inform the young teens about something that Gear Up is a university-funded tutorial and mentoring program geared at giving low-income Roxbury and Boston teens a chance at getting to college.

This week's topic: Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Something that is all too familiar for many Massachusetts teens.

More than 800 young people between the ages of 15 and 19 who reported being infected with Gonorrhea last year in Massachusetts. This is a 20 percent increase from the number of reported cases in 2000, the previous year.

According to the CDC, Gonorrhea is the second most common sexually transmitted diseases in the U.S, infecting over 650,000 each year. Among these, adolescents between the ages of 15 and 19 have the highest reported rates.

George Coman, Database Manager for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Division of STD Prevention affirmed this.

"These numbers are high in almost every state, not just Massachusetts, and it's not just Gonorrhea, it's all STD's" Coman said. "The most startling numbers, however, are those dealing with the 15 through 19 age group. In almost every category [of STD's] and in almost every age group you'll see an increase in the number of those infected. But the biggest jump are [ages] 10 through 14 and 15 through 19. These numbers just sky rocket."

In the 10 to 14-year-old bracket there was a 75 percent increase in the number of reported cases. Coman attrib-

utes this to the fact that children are obviously having unprotected sex earlier.

"I'm not an expert on sex education," Coman said. "But I do know that these youngsters are experimenting with sex at a lot younger age and as a result, they're exposing themselves to some very serious diseases."

In 2000, there were over 100 youth who were reported as having contracted Chlamydia. In 2001 this number increased by 40 percent. Females made up 98 percent of all the reported cases.

In addition to Gonorrhea increase, cases of Chlamydia rose as well.

In 2000 there were over 3,100 reported cases of the bacterial disease among teens. Last year it reached 3,500, making the most commonly contracted STD in the state of Massachusetts.

Nearly 15 million Americans are infected each year with a STD, of which there are more than 20 different strains.

STD's are transmitted through exchange of semen, blood, and other

body fluids.

Coman said that many STD cases go unreported primarily because many private health-care providers are less likely to report their findings to the CDC. Public-health facilities do.

Aside from the unreported cases, there are people who are infected who don't know they are because they display no symptoms. Others simply don't seek treatment so they never go on record for even having an STD.

Even though most people who've been infected with Gonorrhea display no symptoms, few began to experience a burning sensation when urinated, according to Whittier Street Health Center medical personnel. For women with symptoms a cloudy vaginal discharge is very common.

Dr. Joseph Warren, Director of the NU Gear Up program saw a need to educate his students on the consequences of unprotected sex.

"I have a responsibility to of bringing people to them and putting the issue on the table," Warren said. "If I or people like me don't provide them with the education they need than they could potentially fall victim to anything."



Black Teens (close enough)

Vivian Smith-Benton, the youth services coordinator in prevention services at the Roxbury-based Family Services of Greater Boston, can attest to that.

"Our children are in dire need of education," Smith-Benton said. "Everyday they're being bombarded with more than 3000 advertisements a day, the majority of which are centered around sex. So how can we be surprised when our 10, 11, and 12-year-olds start flirting with the idea of sex. That is why it is so important that agencies like ours

provide them with what they need to make good decisions."

Smith-Benton heads a team of case-workers who build support networks in the schools and detention centers for girls between the ages of 14 and 17.

Family services of Greater Boston works in collaboration with Boston English High School, the Department of Youth Services, the Department of Social Services and the courts to identify the children in need of services.

Even though the numbers of reported STD cases are steadily increasing, Smith-Benton remains optimistic.

"I have hope for our youth and I'm thinking positively," she said. "If agencies continue to do what they do best, provide holistic services, and do it wholeheartedly, then I think our kids are going to make a change for the better. We're going to see less teen mothers, less STD's and brighter futures"

FIRST ANNUAL BLACK WELCOME WEEK

Friday September 20th (5pm-9pm)
African American Institute Open House
Free Giveaways, Food, Music and More

Saturday September 21st (8am-11pm)
Active Arts Youth Conference
Location: Curry Student Center

Monday September 23rd
Rap the Vote
Special Guest Performers The Beatnuts
Brought to you by It Beez Like that Entertainment
Location: To be Announced

Tuesday September 24th (9pm-Until)
WDS Presents Red Room
Open Mic, Music and More
Location : Cabral Center, African American Institute

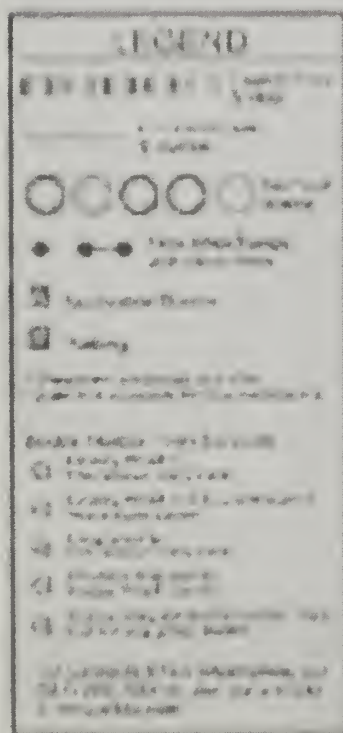
Wednesday September 25th (7pm-9pm)
What's the 411?
Open discussion and panel of upper-class students geared towards freshmen to inform and educate on the ins and outs of life at Northeastern
Location: Cabral Center, African American Institute

Thursday September 26th (6pm-Until)
Back to School Bar-B-Que
Free Food Music and Giveaways
Thursday Night LASO LATIN FLAVA AT AFTER HOURS (10- Until)

Friday September 27th (8:30pm-1am)
NBSA ONYX
Pajama Jam Jump Off
Two Floor, Hip Hop, Reggae and R&B
Location: African American Institute

THE LOWDOWN IN AND AROUND BEANTOWN

THE BRIDGE
ROXBURY
MATTAPAN
DORCHESTER
RUGGLES
DUDLEY
MASS AVE
JP



>>>SOUL FOOD

Bob the Chef's
604 Columbus Ave. Roxbury
617- 536-6204

Chef Lee's
1160 Blue Hill Ave. Dorchester
617-436-6634

Keith's Place
469 Blue Hill Ave. Dorchester
617- 427-7899

Ray's Soul Kitchen
139 Dudley St. Roxbury
617-427-8400

>>>Caribbean & West Indian

Rhythm and Spice
315 Mass Ave. Cambridge
617-497-0977

Ali's Roti Restaurant
1035 Tremont St. Roxbury
617-427-1079

Irie
310 Bowdoin St. Dorchester
617-929-3866

>>>Latin Cuisine

Miami's- Cuban
381 Centre St. Jamaica Plains
617-522- 464
BEST CUBAN SANDWICHES IN BOSTON!

>>>Additional Restaurants

Bombay Café- Indian
175 Mass Ave. Boston
617-247-0555
CHECK OUT THE ALL YOU CAN EAT LUNCH BUFFET!

Merengue- Dominican
160 Blue Hill Ave. Roxbury
617-445-5403

Yours Takeout
7 Washington St. Dorchester
617-427-5855

New York Pizza
224 Tremont St. Boston
617-482-3459

Betty's Diner
250 Huntington Ave. Boston
617-424-1950

>>>Bars & Grills

Fundos
570 Dudley St. Roxbury
617-436-6440

Wally's Café (live jazz)
427 Mass Ave. Boston
617-424-1408

Crazy Praise Christian Night Club & Café
1481 Tremont St. Roxbury

Hi-Fi Pizza & Subs
496 Mass Ave. Cambridge
617*492-4600 /617-354-9673
OPEN TIL 4 AM ON WEEKENDS!

Breezway Bar & Grill
153 Blue Hill Ave. Roxbury
617-541-5400
SUNDAY ALL YOU CAN EAT 10-11
BUFFET!

Slades Bar & Grill
958 Tremont St. Roxbury
617-442-4600
617-522-6633
Info@crazypraze.org

FOOD FOR THE MIND & SOUL**>>>Bookstores**

Lucy Parson's Center
549 Columbus Ave. Roxbury
(617) 267-6272

The Black Library
135 Townsend St. Roxbury
617-442-2400

Jamaicaway Books
626 Centre St. Jamaica Plains
617-983-3204

Nubian Notions
Ruggles Train Station, Roxbury

>>>Open Mics & Spoken Word

Critical Breakdown
15 West Newton St.
3rd and last Sunday of each month
criticalbreakdown@hotmail.com

REDROOM
40 Leon St. Roxbury
Be on the Look Out!
wds_afam@yahoo.com

>>>Let's Chill

Boston Bowl
620 Morrissey Blvd. Dorchester
617-825-3800

African Meeting House
46 Joy St.
(617) 723-8863

>>>Let Us Pray

St. John's St. James Episcopal Church
149 Roxbury St. Roxbury
617-445-8843

New Covenant Christian Center
340 Blue Hill Ave. Roxbury
617-541-3250

Mosque For The Praising Of Allah
724 Shawmut Ave. Roxbury
617-422-2805

Eliot Congregational Church
120 Walnut Ave. Roxbury
617-445-7525

>>>So Fresh and So Clean

Alpha and Omega
288 Washington St. Roxbury
(617) 427-3044

Crystal's
417 Washington St. Downtown
(617) 426-3275

Manhattan Fashions
2304 Washington St. Boston
(617) 442-0849

Cambridgeside Galleria
Lechmere (Last stop on the Green Line T)

A & B Barber's Shop
410 Mass Ave. Boston
617-424-5500

Salon 2
281 Huntington Ave. Boston
617-375-5555
ASK 4 ERIC, HE'LL DO YOUR DOO RIGHT!

>>>Just In Case

Beacon Dental Group
1016 Blue Hill Ave. Mattapan
(617) 282-2146

Active Arts Youth Conference

1st Annual

Inspiring, educating, and mobilizing the hip-hop generation - Boston, MA

September 20 - 22, 2002



Sponsors:
AFSC's Critical Breakdown,
Northeastern's Black Student
Association, JRI Health's Urban Youth
Institute, MAC, NEAETC, AgitArte & Redeye Magazine

Featuring: **Dead Prez, Medusa**. Minister Ben Chavis Muhammad (director of the Hip Hop Summit Action Network), **La Bruja** and **Suheir Hammad** of HBO's Def Poetry Jam, **Davey D**, and...

Mario Africa and
AWOL Magazine

Rosa Clemente

Kazi Toure

The Welfare Poets

Freedom Fighter Records

Berklee's Jazz/ Hiphop

Ensemble

Marquette Peltier

Prison Moratorium Project

Fred Hampton Jr.

Jahi of BET's Rap It Up

Big Noise Films

Luminous Flux

RAWEARTH

Active Element
Foundation

Ariel Shepard

Ramona Africa

Queen Godis

Jeremy Glick of Stress

and Blu Magazine

Tony Coleman and

Mindzeye Collective

Blackout Arts Collective

Pam Africa

Russell Shoatz Jr

Ricanstruction

Harry Terrell

(Jimmie Hatz Condoms)

Teen Voices Magazine

Kamel Jacob-Bell

Not In Our Name

Letta Neely

Walidah Imarisha

Ashanti Alston

Project Think Different

Victory Gardens

Bruce Ellison

Yejide The Night Queen

Conscious Movements

Collective

Mahina Movement

Youth on Fire

Taina DeValle

SCHEDULE:

Friday, Sept. 20th at Somerville Theatre Davis Square (next door to the redline):

8:00PM-1:00 AM. Hip Hop show featuring Dead Prez, Medusa, Davey D, The Welfare Poets, Berklee's Jazz/Hiphop Ensemble, La Bruja, Suheir Hammad, Jahi, and more.

All Ages - Tickets \$20 (available at ticketmaster)

Saturday, Sept. 21st at Northeastern University's Curry Student Center:

10:00-11:30 Workshop I

12:00-1:30 Workshop II

1:30-3:00: Lunch (on your own)

3:00-4:30: Workshop III

5:00-6:30: Keynote Ceremony MINISTER BEN MUHAMMAD and
post 9-11 remembrance...

6:30-11:00: Critical Breakdown (Open Mic) at Centennial Commons-outdoors
(Saturday's events are FREE to everyone)

Sunday, Sept. 22nd at the Middle East Restaurant in Central Square.

11:00-2:00: Networking Session- Brunch served
(FREE)

For more info, workshop listings, tickets to Friday night's show,
and directions to the venues call 617-661-6130 or
visit www.activeartsyouthconference.com

FlyerDesign-Galagrafix.com

Placing Budgets on Youth Development

Words: Jovia L. Léveillé

As the summer of 2002 comes to a close, one has to wonder what has come of the many inner-city teens who, due to a decaying economy, were not able to find summer employment. With a surge of high-profile crime (mostly violent), it is almost impossible to notice the direct correlation between the epidemic and the state of the economy.

According to a May, 2002 article in the Boston Globe, former Massachusetts Governor Paul Cellucci cut \$3 million in state funds for summer jobs during the summer of 2000. One year later, in 2001, Governor Jane Swift pledged to reinstate the large sum of money. However, efforts failed as a result of the declining economy. Thus, this past summer has proved a difficult battle for the bulk of Boston's 16- and 17-year-old teens.

With limited funds for yet another year, the focus of jobs has been directed towards the city's 14- and 15-year-olds - those who cannot simply apply for any regular job. However, with all of the funds going towards the development of the younger group of teens, job opportunities still very few.

In an effort to keep Boston's youth away from gangs and violence, the city's mayor, Thomas M. Menino, sought out alternatives to the city's usual cleaning crew: private sectors. After the city witnessed its 26th murder victim this year, 10-year-old Trina Persad (who was caught in the middle of crossfire between rival gangs), Menino pleaded with private sectors to provide jobs for 1,500 teenagers, according to a July 2002 article in the Boston Herald. Not receiving much response from these private corporations, Menino pushed to fit the 1,200 14- and 15-year-old applicants into

the city's cleaning crew. In order to do this, the once six-week summer program was transformed into two three-week programs, in which two different sets of youth could work. Also, the \$7 and hour at five hours a day pay rate turned into a \$125 weekly stipend, according to the Herald.

If you do the math the drop in monetary returns is startling.

A student making \$1,050 last summer now makes less than - \$375. This is a difference of close to \$700.

Put that up against the cost of inflation and it seems pointless for youth to even go through with the application process. And many don't.

In April of this year, the Boston Herald released information on the decreasing budgets of programs (from Summer 2001 to 2002) on which the city's youth depend for summer activities.

According to the Herald, Massport, which funds programs in eight communities, experienced a budget decreased from \$740,000 to \$370,000. Metropolitan District Commission (which normally hires about 700 teens) experienced a 4 million dollar cut -from nearly 54 million dollars to close to 50.5 million dollars. Facing similar cuts, the Boston Summer Jobs Program's funds were cut by 3 million dollars - from 9 million in 2001 to \$6 million in 2002.

Decreases in city budgets are never beneficial for the city's inhabitants and almost always end in a surge of violence and crime. Yet, the Boston Public School system has been denied tens of thousands of dollars in its budget and the city's leaders are granted breathtakingly high raises.

Some would take this as an indication that power is still in the hands of the rich elite, and in order for there to be a change in the system, it is up to us, the city's upcoming professionals, to reach high grounds and change the situation in our communities.

ESSAY CONTEST

The Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest is an annual competition that is designed to challenge college students to analyze the urgent ethical issues confronting them in today's complex world. Students are encouraged to write thought-provoking, personal essays.

Full-time undergraduate juniors and seniors at accredited colleges and universities in the US and Canada are welcome to enter the 2003 Essay Contest.

All submissions to the essay contest are judged anonymously. A distinguished committee reviews the essays and a jury that includes Elie Wiesel chooses the winners. Please note that no manuscripts will be returned and essays may not be submitted elsewhere until the awards have been announced. Winners will be announced in April 2003.

For more information visit the provider's website at: www.eliewieselselfoundation.org/EthicsPrize/EPContest.htm

ESSAY CONTEST

Institute for Brand Leadership Essay Contest.

The Institute for Brand Leadership Essay Contest is open to undergraduate and graduate students in all fields of study as well as those who are not currently enrolled in school. You must write an essay between 1500 and 2500 words that answers the question "Why and under what circumstances are people more likely to buy brand names rather than their generic counterparts?" In your essay, you must apply a theory or set of theories from a particular discipline or area of study.

For more information visit the provider's website at: www.instituteforbrandleadership.org/IBLEssayContest-2002Rules.html

Scholarship

The TextbookX.com Scholarship is available to undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in good standing at an accredited college or university in the U.S. You must be a legal resident of the U.S. or an international student with a valid visa to be eligible. To apply for this scholarship, you must write a 250 to 750 word essay on the following topics: Does science leave room for faith? Does faith leave room for science? In responding to these questions, you must make reference to one book that has had a significant influence on your thoughts.

For More Information visit the providers website at: www.textbookx.com

S.U.M.-Start Up Money

Words: C.Browne a.k.a. SDC

How to gain and maintain wealth and start up your own business.

1.) Love and have faith in yourself.

2.) Realize that people may not want you to do it because they want to do it first, yet if given the opportunity they would never do it.

3.) Work your plan.

4.) Who you are is whom you always will be, so acknowledge your flaws and improve your strengths.

5.) There are three types of people: People who are good for nothing, good for the sake of themselves (a.k.a. good for nothing), and people who are good for the sake of a higher power. Which one are you?

6.) What you give is always what you get, so watch what you do.

7.) Following your goals can drive you insane, so learn to relax and have fun.

8.) Study your trade, because practice really does make perfect.

9.) Replace your fear with faith and you'll stop decaying.

10.) If what you're doing is not positive or righteous, then what's the point?

Jose Masso, a.k.a Killa B. Da Bandit, is one of the few promising entrepreneurs on Northeastern Universities Campus. With his company, "It Beez Like That Entertainment", as a household name amongst the students in colleges throughout the Massachusetts, Da Bandit is making the necessary moves towards his success. When asked, what sparked his willingness to create S.U.M., it was more than clear that Jose was well grounded, and doing what so many people who make lateral moves, tend to speak about, but rarely remember to do,

"give back". Compiling a list of things that fueled him to do the damn thing with "It Beez Like That Entertainment" S.U.M. is being passed on. "It's really the simple things that make it happen...starting out with first, believing in yourself."

ACCION USA ORIENTATION SESSION

Looking for a small business loan?

What:

An Orientation and Information session for small business owner interested in applying for a small business loan from ACCION USA.

When:

Wednesday, September 4th, 2002 at 11:00 am and 6:00 pm

Wednesday, September 18th, 2002 at 11:00 am and 6:00 pm

Wednesday, September 25th, 2002 at 11:00 am

Where:

Our office - 56 Roland Street, Suite 300, Charlestown

Cost:

Free!

ACCION USA is a community-based organization that was set up to provide small business loans to self-employed entrepreneurs and business owners that may have trouble obtaining loans from traditional sources such as banks. We offer first-time loans from \$500 to \$15,000 and will work with informal, home-based, start-up, and established businesses. Attend an Orientation Session: it's the first step towards securing a Working Capital business loan from ACCION USA. We will cover the loan terms and application process, and the session provides a great opportunity for microentrepreneurs to meet and network. To register, call C.J. at 617-625-7080 x 1335

www.roxbury.com

Looking for a small business loan?

Track by Track (J-live/All of the Above)

Words: Maurice "the Moe" Archer

A'ight, a'ight, comin' out of the smoke and dust from September 11th in my hometown, New York City and all the struggles life throws at you, **Track By Track** is back, neva wack, one of the best things(here) that's black, in a city where "it's just like that!"

Mr.Archer is back analyzing LP's & other music like the truth; that I love this sh**. Peace to Black, Hispanic & the underrated people in Jamaica Queens(hip hop origins), Roxbury, Brooklyn(hip hop origins), Brighton, Uptown-Harlem(hip hop origins), Cambridge, Dorchester, Da Boogie down Bx(hip hop origins), Mattapan, Roslindale, Africa, the West Indies & everywhere the struggle to survive lurks.

J Live, whom this issue's Track By Track investigates, The Executioners (the 4-man DJ group out of Queens), came out wit a new album called "Built From Scratch" which is no joke for my real hip hop fiends. I also picked up Pete Rock's "Petestrumentals", which I am a little late on coppin' but that joint right there will have your mind right in any occasion.

Word! DJ Babu from Dilated Peoples and the Beat Junkies came out wit his own album that I haven't really listened to yet but I know it's madness for the turntablist lovers. This was a good visit to the spot for DJ talent. J Live is also a DJ, but he Mcees (the act of m-c-ing) more than turntabling on this album titled "All of the Above," compared to his freshman attempt, "The Best Part." I'm feelin' the title, and it gives me a "everything is everything vibe. J shows a little public school influence, expressing his song credits in scantron (5 possible answers) form, with choice (e) always being "all of the above". That's clever

and I want to hear the album now so, let's feel this.

Track1 - "First Things First," the first track, provides a xylophone & some drums, while J-Live starts you off with his hip hop journey. "Do what you feel, and feel what you do." I like that. He discusses the hip hop outlets (walk-mans, turntables and speakers, etc) and introduces sh** nicely. A nice beat takes over halfway into it, including the same xylophone tone (Haa haa, ya like dat!?!). This is real hip hop to me. Finally! I'm diggin' that he produces his own music.

Track2 - J got a real nice flow and he shows it on "How Real It Is". He brings you into his world wit a smooth beat that has this guitar melody that sounds like something my Brotha would cook up. J teams up wit a cat named Joe Money on this production and they made a good team right here. Definitely impressed by hearin' some hip hop, flavorful, realness wit' some cuttin' done by J himself, I think. He's a DJ too?!! Crazy!

Track3 - Conscious rap displayed here and I'm wildin'out right now. It's about time the trip to the record store didn't turn out to be a waste of time. "Satisfied" explains the struggle between the rich and the poor and ohhhhhh sh** did we need something like this in these times. The beat is light and middle-eastern. DJ Spinna, my boy Rob's favorite DJ/Producer, laces J for the message-filled beauty on wax. What up y'all? Run out and get his joint right after you finish reading this.

Track4 - Ha haaa, some fax-like message sendin' is goin' on, and the more I hear, the more I'm feelin this cat, J-Live. Reppin' Manhattan's Uptown, Harlem section of NY, the Live One (as he calls himself) made track 4 a skit called "I'm a Rapper". It's like poetry in another way because he is being schooled to what this female feels a rapper is in a spoken word format.

Details and knowledge to keep the thorough-ness going. No problemz so far.

Track5 - All production by J on the "Mcee." He just shines on this definition of what he feels an MC is. This is a nice, underground party joint. Did I mention his scratchin' skills are ridiculous. Yoooo, the-the-the-the J- the-the-the-L....

Track6 - he teams up wit Joe Money for production again and I can see why. The melody is graceful & enticing, setting the mood for the flow-to-a-woman style. "Like This Anna" sounds like J's sensitive side. Brovaz that had a nice shorty/wifee will feel this. I can see De La Soul or a Tribe Called Quest (if they were still together) doing a remix to this.

Track7 - My favorite number 7, and my man J is tellin' me a story. I'm not really sure why it's called "One for the Griot" but I'll figure it out by the end. The beat is ill & "ill street blues-ish" but there's this string instrument in the back I can't put my fingers on. Pianos and drums as he talks about some cat visitin' some shorty on some cheatin' sh** and they get caught. I like his flow, yo. He changes the same story like 2 or 3 different times for each verse. Definitely worthy of the #7 spot.

Track8 - Reminiscent of some Run DMC sh**, this track showcases J in old school form. He makes the beat once again for this joint called "Stir of Echoes" & it's the perfect b-boy track. Repetitive scratchin', bells, drums, & I just figured out why he called it Stir of Echoes. In the hook, he's saying sh** with some other people in the background to make echoes to go wit the beat. A shorty named Tanya comes on and kicks some knowledge over this sick beat wit a heavy echo used to blend wit the beatlike a chocolate banana milkshake. This is a serious album.

Track9 - His 2nd interlude is a cute (pardon the soft talk) babies voice sayin' somethin'. It's adorable & that's two really soft words, so we gonna have to cut it there, but this is beautiful, yo. A nice bell-driven beat & the future (the babies) before materialization. I'm still impressed.

Track10 - Layin' back on ya block, a barbeque, and the essence of a black/Hispanic neighborhood is the perfect setting to listen to this. Titled "Do That Sh***" is just saying that you should do what you have to do, not always what you want to do. Stop fakin' moves, be yourself, and shine wit' it. I'm relaxed to this DJ Spinna beat. The "classic" idea/label is entering my head.

Track11 - Another mellow tone. "All in Together Now" is J rhyming over another DJ Spinna beat wit some strong drums and some mellow bells. He talks about MC's all coming together and blessing hip hop and wack-ass MC's dropping the mic. Word, yo, all the wack muf***as that want to MC just to shine, STOP THAT! Don't pick it up if you ain't got no heart & something positive to bring. Straight up! Overall though, this joint is like an 8 out of 10.

Track12 - He goes from mellow to sensitive on this track. He collaborates with a beautiful female voice labeled Rokafella for a duet that had me thinking of my first love. That beat I hypnotic wit the bells & spaced out sounds blendin' wit the deep piano & drums tones. "Nights Like This" is when this song was made for and he talks about how he's feelin', from the heart, at that time....The Nighttime. An Average track but it keeps the vibe going. Still feelin' this whole sh**.

Track13 - Here seems to be the peek of his sensitive side. A very relaxed beat that he says in the album, he took from another artists's idea. He got together with two musicians, Eric Krasno (strings) and Elliot "2T's All Keys" Thomas (keyboard) to produce this inspiration to love. A song I can relate to, "The 4th 3rd" is J talking about his first love. Life is Ironic at times. Word.

Track14 - "Travelling Music" is a song giving a shout to everywhere he's traveled to. Shoutout to everywhere!! NY, Boston, everywhere there's a struggle wit blacks, Hispanics & otha oppressed peoples. I'm feelin' this joint because

I travel a lot too. The track is aaaaa'i-iggtht, nuttin' really remarkable.

Track15 - Bringin' in a new melodic sequence, "A Charmed Life" keeps the shoutout vibe going. He proclaims his love for home in this tale of growin' up in a geographical location similar to my present origin. NYCity produces a new MC that has old school values. I'm feelin' the xylophone & drum patterns utilized present on this song. The last track produced by somebody besides DJ Spinna, someone new to me, P Smoova puts himself on the map wit some nice beats for ya ears.

Track16 - Not to discount anything but I think J put too many tracks on this album. The title track "All of the Above" produced by DJ Spinna of course, is brilliant but I feel it's in the



wrong location. A lot of the beats give a mellow vibe at the end of this LP and now it is slightly boring me to the point that I'm not paying attention to what he's saying. This track is better as a single than where it is on the album, in my opinion. At least, for these few times I've had the opportunity to listen to it. Don't get it wrong though, everything is everything and that's the message I got from this head massage. DJ Spinna is sick wit that scratchin' sh** at the end.

Track17 - The 3rd and final interlude is a nice little beat called "Whatever" and he's doing every kind of stage check in order to ridicule mcees that do that and procrastinate on the mic. I'm feelin this.

Track18 - OK, OK, this is what I'm talkin' about J. Spinna brings some vicious drums & this ill keyboard sound, and some otha,...Yo! Skills lyrically and the beat is so creative, I'm wondering what this cat does besides make beats. "Happy Belated" feels like he sent this joint to me as a present

after my bornday last month. There's no doubts about this track. One of my favorite on the album.

Track19 - I had to go back (take 4 more inhales of the medicine) & listen to track 3 to see the difference between this(the remix) and track 3 "Satisfied". Regardless, this beat is crazy as well. Very meditational like my show on Tuesday nights from 8-10pm on 104.9 FM, Da Meditation Session. OK, after the obvious pub (ha haaaa), I realize the difference between the two tracks. This isn't the remix as I thought. It's the "Dub version" of track 3, which I think is simply stating that it is an instrumental with some new adlibs. I did feel hearin' that beat again though. Ear candy.

Track20 - Oh, yo, I'm diggin' this joint already. The mellow mood I'm in is makin' me glad to see J team up wit New Jersey native (and ex Artifacts member) El da Sensai on this track with another cat named Asheru who completes the cypha and holds his own on the 3 man shinin'. DJ Spinna laces the minds wit complex beats that soothe the stress we all feelin' right now. "3 Out Of 7" is a team up no one would have expected except them, that will make many in the real hip hop community glad they had it to bump in whatever device they use the blast sh**!

Track21 - My fault! DJ Spinna did take a break for the last track. Some cat named Richy Pitch produced the last track for J's album and "The Lyricist" made a good decision puttin' him on. Versatility is displayed to end it off right. A tight new flow and I'm definitely satisfied like track 3 or 19 would suggest.

A little long but yo, it's definitely worth loot. For the newcomers, I rate music on how much loot I would sacrifice to capture the knowledge & entertainment thrown at me by an artist. On a scale of \$0.00 to \$15.99, I would spend \$15.99 to get this jewel. I predict classic, because I wouldn't ever pay \$15.99 for a CD (the scale for the Track by Track used to be \$0-\$14.99), but this LP changed my scale of rating, so that says something about how good and necessary for hip hop it is. (The scale may have only increased by \$1 but a dollar is a big deal, ask somebody that's really poor.)

One Love to all my peoples!

TRICK DADDY

"THUG HOLIDAY"

Slip-N-Slide/Atlantic recording artist Trick Daddy is back in action with "In Da Wind," the first single from his eagerly awaited new album, " THUG HOLIDAY."

The album in, stores NOW, promises to deliver more of Trick Daddy's straight-from-the-street autobiographical style, while taking his art to a whole new level. This is by far his most diverse and ground-breaking collection to date, the album spans musical styles and subject matter- political, social and spiritual - without ever losing touch with Trick's hardcore Liberty City roots.

"I have a problem with artists who come from the streets and get rich and never go back," Trick says. "I still hang out where I grew up, because these are my people and you can never forget where you came from if you want to be true to yourself."

Marked by a new, expansive approach, "THUG HOLIDAY" shows Trick Daddy dramatic growth and fresh nuance. He has clearly broadened his perspective on life and his list of collaborators (he features Cee-Lo, Big Boi, Scarface, Baby, LaTocha Scott, among others on this album). Trick Daddy has reached new heights

You've got to pick up this album 'cuz everybody knows "Trick loves da kids."



Mad 500

"Tell 'em Why You Mad, Son"

Words: Daitwan David

Sparked off by the notorious hater, "The Hater," I got amped to spit out the ill wills that was on my bird, because shat, I got a mouth too, "I got's to talk"-(Notorious B.I.G.). I mean, The Onyx was crazy enough to give me 500 words for ventilation, so, that's what I'm gonna do, ventilate like a mu'and tell ya'll why I'm mad.

Technology

Wassup with the computers in here. My disk caught the monster, and I passed it on. My files were deleted, and my middler year paper is gone, yeeaaaahhh-hh, I'm about to dumb out and if I have to type this article over again, I'm gonna wild out, for real! This online research on the 2nd floor, type up work on the 3rd floor, print out work and research on the 2nd floor, ain't cutting it. Come on now, there's no reason for there to be 13 student computers in the 'Tute, and only one and a possible work. This school costs too much for anything to be broken. Wassup with some new Dells like the ones in Snell Library. P.S. They don't have to be black.

School

Financial Aid's disrespecting me again like I haven't paid my dues. I mean I didn't pay my balance, but I've been here too long for them to still be playing with my money. They gave me \$150 for work-study and a \$953.72 loan with 102% interest. That's barely covering books! Tuition increased, financial aid decreased. That don't add up. My mama did not get a raise at her job. I don't possess the winning Big Game ticket. Proctoring ain't holding it down like that, especially since I'm suspended, What do they expect?

Forget a \$10,000 tree. The campus is pretty enough as is, and I breathe fine. I need mo' money and they only supplying mo' problems and new planners. Got everyone dazed and shat, " Did you see the new planners...look what NU sent me...this is off the hook...the new student handbook (hand job)." I'm not trying to get done dirty like that and all, but I'm mad that I did not even get one. A brother owe a University a couple of dollars and they take me off of the "get-a-new-planner" list. SHADY! I bet they still got me on that collections department list, tho, GUARANTEED! I'll have to take care of that at the usual "I am blocked" registration. It is only called "I am here", fall quarter freshmen year. Same as with the transition from Co-op to the more commonly used phrase, No-op

D Z's

It must be in the water because if not, I'm mad Church's Chicken got these lil thang thangs looking like grown thang thangs. My eyes playing tricks on me. I always wanted to meet a superstar, but not by doing the jail thing, ya heard me!!!

Final Vent

I'm mad the Onyx has not updated their web page in two years, Jamila Hill and Kerrita Mclaughlyn graduated ya'll, come on. I'm mad someone told me that when I finally graduate I'm not gonna have a certificate with seals, I'ma have a piece of scrap paper with "AMOUNT DUE: \$\$ YOU IN DEBT !!!"on it. And then they still gonna ask for a donation of \$20.03. Ain't that some shat. That's why I'm mad.

Daitwan David

D- Ventilator "The Aspiring Hater Apprentice"

The purpose of the Mad 500 is to give students an outlet to vent on anything in 500 words or less. To contribute please email your Mad 500 to onyxinformer@yahoo.com

Hang or Bang

Words: Killa B Da Bang

GLENN LEWIS



Top 5 Albums to Bang

(Albums You Need to Purchase.)

1) **Joi-Star** *Kitty's Revenge*
"Yo she's sexy as hell; the album is sexy. I would buy it on the strength of the pictures alone"

2) **Glen Lewis**- *World Outside My Window*
"Don't you forget it, don't forget to buy this album.. (you have to sing it out loud)"

3) **Sade**- *Lovers Live*
"The name says it all"

4) **De La Soul**- *AOT:Bionix*
"This album is one of the reasons why I still have faith in Hip-Hop"

5) **M.I.C.**- *Welcome to Oblivion*
"There's not too many people that own this album, but if you're one of them you are lucky. It's that real life Boston street music"

Top 5 Albums to Hang

(Albums that should stay on the shelf)

1) **Blade 2**- *The Soundtrack*
"I heard the movie was good"

2) **Master P** *Presents...West Coast Bad Boys-Poppin' Collars*
"This goes to show that there is a limit of wack albums on No Limit, and Master P has passed it"

3) **Avant**- *Ecstasy*
"That's what he must've been on if he thought this album was going to sell. Anyways I heard this guy before, his name is R. Kelly"

4) **Brandy**- *Full Moon*
"Poor Brandy, I'm not even going to say anything about this one"

5) **Saul Williams**- *Amethyst Rock Star*
"Who, What, Why?"

HOLLAR AT MS. NUBIAN

Dear Ms. Nubian,

I am a sophomore here at Northeastern and was able to convince my best friend to come to school here. I thought it was going to be straight, but by the second day of orientation she turns into a straight freak. She's running around campus in club gear, rockin' that silly looking lip gloss you see those females on music videos wearing, spending way too much time in other peoples (males) dorm rooms and the word on campus is that she's a little too "cool". I know these are all rumors, but her reputation is just about shot! I want to tell her that her about the rumors, but I'm afraid she's going to get hurt and probably leave school. What should I do?

One,
"Just Lookin' Out For My Peoples"

"Lookin' Out",

First and foremost, if that were your TRUE homegirl you would have sat her down from the jump and gave her the 411 on what college is really about. This is a totally new ballgame. But, what's done is done....

Your issue is not with your man it's with homegirl, because your man is just going on what he saw, heard, or had some of. What you need to do is holla at your girl, and let her know that her rep has fallen off because she has some garden-tool like tendencies (no need to spell it out). Not in those exact words, but shorty needs to hear the harsh truth. All you can do is relay to homegirl what is being said, because you can't change her.

One of two things will happen, shorty will either keep up with her grimy ways because that's how she wants to get down, or shorty will take your advice take her silly self to class rather than doing who knows what with Lord knows who.

Dear Ms. Nubian,

I attended a Boston High School and I am now a freshman at Northeastern. I have a man (who I've been with for last 5 and a half months). He got accepted to a school in Virginia and says he wants to continue the relationship. We decided that if we do stay together that we would still see other people (this was his suggestion), at least until he comes back for summer vacation. He says he'll call me everyday and that'll be enough to keep our relationship strong. Should I go along with this? Please help.

"Holding On"

"Holding On",

Woah! How about you leave your high school sweetheart back in high school where you found him.

It makes no sense to enter college in a relationship because you're not doing that relationship any justice. Chances are, trying to hold on to that long distance relationship is going to be too much maintenance for two individuals who aren't being faithful to each other anyway.

Your first year of college is supposed to be all about you getting involved with activities and meeting new people. That cannot be accomplished if your always walking around with a phone glued to ear, because your man is always trying to holla and see what your doing before he does something wrong. It's time to move up, move on, and start experiencing the good things that college has to offer and that includes the cuties.

If you have questions you would like to ask Ms. Nubian, please e-mail her at onyxinformer@yahoo.com

THE ONLY SPEAK OUT



DIARY OF AN NU GRAD: A RETROSPECTION BY ALEXANDRA MITCHNER

This former NU Student and now aspiring Super-hero takes a break from crime fighting (well, not really) to reflect on college life and the adventures ahead

Dear Diary,

June is here, the sun has finally blazed through the incessant April clouds, and I've recently realized that it's been a year since I graduated from Northeastern. It's been a year since I used my \$20,000 gym membership to sweat and socialize at the Marino Center, it's been a year since I shuffled along the line in the Ballroom, trying to weasel around various Bursar's blocks, it's been a year since I napped at The Institute, and it's been a year since I watched in amazement as my fellow classmates took over Massachusetts Avenue and felt, for a quick second, how David did right after he let the rock fly...hopeful, determined, excited, proud...It's been a year.

When I think about my experiences during my five-year stint in college and then what I've been through during this passed year, I'm hit with so many emotions. I'm pissed off that my reason for attending NU, the co-op program, did little to nothing to help me during my job search after graduation. I'm even more pissed off that I'm already getting harassed for loan payments and that I have, much too quickly, been forced to switch the

focus of my tears from Financial Aid hardships to Sallie Mae excuses. And I'm mad that NU is STILL holding my diploma hostage as a result of some obscure unpaid bill. But, besides all the hostility, these passed 12 months have been filled with enough tragedy, from planes literally falling into my backyard to the unexpected deaths of Aaliyah and Lefteye, to make me appreciate what it is I do have. Northeastern has blessed me with a handful of close friends that I'm grateful to know. Northeastern has prepared me for the injustices and struggles that I face daily while trying to make a name for myself in this crazy world. It has allowed me to realize my strengths along with the ability to work on my weaknesses.

With the passing of Fall (memories of crisp Freshman faces and new professors) and the introduction of Spring (memories of Spring Breaks on Daytona Beach), I began to miss school. I missed laying on the grass outside Ryder Hall, going to Chicken Lou's for some greasy spicy fries, or getting in debates about whatever in whichever place we decided to gather that particular day. I took for granted what those years meant to my growth as a person and I'm hoping that those precious days aren't lost on my suc-

cessors.

In the end, I guess I still kind of feel how David did right after he let that rock fly. I'm hopeful for what this life has in store for me, I'm determined not to stumble along my unpaved path and make careless decisions, I'm excited for more beautiful memories with the incredible friends that keep me sane, but diary, most of all, I am proud. I'm proud that I made it through the tuition headaches, the 20-page papers, the D-shifts, the parties, the heartbreaks, the mistakes and the lessons learned. I'm proud of those that came before me and those ('02...'03...'04) that will come after. I know that we can't slay the giant all of the time but, eventually, in one way or another, whether it be through a college graduation or something else, I'm positive that we'll all know how great it feels to hit our target.

Damn, I'm already a philosopher and it's only been a year.

Wish me luck, Diary.

Alex

Alexandra Mitchner ('01) is a NU alumna. She currently lives in New York.

Thinking Back Thoughts on Sept. 11th

Words: Ibiere Seck *Paris, October 4, 2001*

25

Bora is back. He left for Turkey three days after the attack on the twin towers. Bora, a native-born Turk studying International Relations at the University of Paris, said he couldn't deal with the staring passengers on the train whose eyes studied his face in search of "Arab-ness." He couldn't deal with the comments in class, in the hall, on the street, on the radio, in the news - the comments that made one feel ashamed of one's Islamic faith. And most of all, he could deal with the anti-Muslim propaganda that was being circulated via satellite television, word-of-mouth, e-mail, priority mail, etc. He left Paris in the hopes of finding some peace of mind in his own country with his own people.

"How was home," I asked when I saw him on my way to class.

"Chaos," he said with a forced smile. There was pain in his eyes and it was obvious that peace was somewhere far from Turkey.

I remember the first time Bora and I spoke. It was September 13. I had just finished reading the International Herald Tribune and was on my way to student lounge to catch a glimpse of CNN before my next class. Bora was talking to Jared, a California-native studying Journalism and International Communications at AUP. I didn't need to hear the conversation to know that they were talking about the attacks, after all - EVERYONE in Paris was talking about the attacks. I moved close enough to the two of them so I could listen and then readied myself to provide Bora with any support if needed it, for I had a pretty good impression that theirs wasn't a friendly "how-are-you-doing-today" conversation. Bora's face told me that.

"So, what do you think of the news coverage," Bora asked Jared.

"I think the coverage is pretty in good," he replied. "In fact, I haven't ever seen CNN follow a story this closely. They're hitting this thing from

every angle."

"But don't you think the news coverage is a little unfair," Bora asked pleadingly.

"Nope, not at all," Jared said with confidence.

"Well, they're saying the hijackers were Muslim fundamentalists and that Bin Laden is behind the attack. Isn't it too soon to know all of that?"

"No, not really."

"What about the authorities saying the Arabs are behind all of this," Bora asked. "I mean, don't you think they're unfairly targeting a specific group of people?"

"No!" the student said shocked. "I don't think they're targeting anyone. They're simply covering the news."

I couldn't let the conversation go on any longer. It was clear that whatever support Bora was looking for he wasn't going to find it there. I walked in their general direction and greeted them both. "What were you guys talking about," I asked as if I hadn't heard anything.

"News coverage," Bora said quietly.

"Yeah, it's pretty jacked, up isn't it" I said. Bora sighed as the stress left his face. Not wanting to be teamed, Jared left.

I stood there looking at Bora for a while. I didn't really know what to say next. I guess the only thing I wanted was for him to know that he wasn't the only one who felt the way he did. The silence wasn't awkward - it was more comforting than anything else. Bora seemed more at ease than before.

"I hate this place," he said. "I hate this place, I hate this country, I hate these people." Harsh words, but who was I to judge.

"I know how you feel," I said. "But if you're looking people to empathise

with you, you're not going to find here. No one's thinking clearly, there's a lot of emotions flying about and people are going to act on them." He was quite for a moment.

"You know they're bombing Afghanistan as we speak," he said more to himself than to me.

"Yeah," I said, even though I didn't.

"You know that they're at war with Iraq as well?"

I didn't really didn't know what to say. So I just let him talk. "On my way here I saw the Paris bomb squad surrounding a car outside a bookstore," he began. "They told all of us evacuate the premises. I stood there wondering how they could come to conclusion like that. It was an average care. It was parked in a legal parking space, 30 minutes remaining on the meter, but the police said it looked 'suspicious.' I was so mad I couldn't even breathe. There was no bomb. In fact, the only thing 'suspicious' about that car was that it had Tunisian plates."

I remained silent.

"I really do hate all of this," he continued. "This attack is going to make my life and the lives of Muslims everywhere miserable. People are going to treat us differently, we're going to be harassed more now than ever. It's terrible. And people now are so upset with all the images they've been feeding us on television that they can't even stop to think about why this happened or how it's going to impact the people who look like me." He paused. "I'm not going to be able to find a job here, you know," he said.

"Yeah, it's going to be difficult," I responded, not knowing what else to say. "So what are you going to do," I asked.

"I'm leaving," he said. "I'm going back to Turkey."

That is was the last time I talked with Bora. He left for Turkey the next day. Hopefully, he'll find peace.

Spain's Painful History

Words: Petula Paine

After a wonderful study abroad experience in Sevilla, Spain, during the fall quarter of 2001, I decided to return to the country for a two-week independent research study on the historical and religious contributions Africans made throughout slavery. I was motivated to take part in such a rewarding experience after reading an article, "The Negro Brotherhood of Sevilla," by Arthur A. Schomburg. Mr. Schomburg was the greatest collector of African American history. He went to Spain seeking in search of records of Africans enslaved by the first Spanish explorers to America. He added his research to a collection, which bears his name, at the New York Public Library.

I decided during my spring break vacation and holyweek, to continue Mr. Schomburg study on the unique religious brotherhood from which were drawn the first Christian slaves to the New World. As I walked the narrow cobbled-stone streets of Sevilla, I observed hundred of thousands of people gathered together to see the fifteen religious processions influenced by the remembrance of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I entered the Chapel of the Angels to gather information on the African slaves who used the chapel to congregate and give offerings to sustain their religious ceremonies.

While inside I interviewed several church members told me what they thought of the story of the Negro Brotherhood in Sevilla. They were more than eager to share The history of the Negro Brotherhood can be traced back to the 14th century when the coast of North Africa was the mart that supplied African slaves to the Andalusian ports. Many of the slaves in Sevilla settled in a village known as, Conde Negro. The village was named after Juan de Valladolid, commonly known as Conde Negro (Black Count), who gained his freedom from slavery and was appointed Mayor of the village on November 8, 1475. To this day his memory is honored. A street is named after



him in Sevilla.

I found it very interesting that among the notable persons who declared themselves protectors of men, many were ridiculed because they disagreed with slavery. For example, the noble and kindly figure, Archbishop Gonzalo de Mena who fought for the rights slaves was given at the time. He founded a hospital and home, with a chapel (Chapel of the Angels) for the members of the Brotherhood of Negroes. He also took part in many of the religious processions organized by the slaves, which were well known because of the sumptuousness and fervor of those participants who showed devotion to the church and God.

I believe that it is important to understand that although slavery brought torture and discomfort to the lives of many slaves, the Chapel of Angels was the only foundation in Sevilla that gave the slaves a place to worship, giving them hope for a better life. As described by the current members of the chapel, the faces of the slaves, which were depicted on the walls, because of the struggle they encountered to sustain the chapel and their religious ceremonies. A member also said that she had heard stories of two free slaves who were willing to pawn their liberty to collect the amount needed to maintain the chapel.

Here I stood astonished, in the chapel were the early slaves gathered to devote their lives to God. They rebelled against the injustices brought upon them by the Spanish explorers and paved pleasant paths for others to follow. I found that learning about the unique and impressive story of the Negro Brotherhood of Sevilla, made my experience in Spain definitely worthwhile.

Petula Paine is a NU alumnus who graduated class of 2002.

Moving thoughts...

"Every race has a soul, and the soul of that race finds expression in it's institutions, and to kill those institutions is to kill the soul..No people can profit or be helped under institutions which are not the outcomes of their own character".

- Edward Blyden

"Now more than ever, Africans in the Diaspora have to combine forces to deal with the forces oppression world wide. Once the custodians of the richest continent in the world, the continent which bare the cradle of civilization, we are now among the poorest people in the world. Handicapped by our poverty, we are unable to pursue with ease, a course of self-determination. We have found ourselves dependents of racist states in a hostile world. Where does the African fit in the landscape? How does the African break through the cycle of dependence and become a truly liberated individual, community, and people. A course of liberation requires a united front, a deeply rooted and widely adopted (Afrocentric) philosophy, and a viable economic infrastructure".



**Coming together is a beginning
Staying together is progress
Working together is success**

-Henry Ford

-The members of the Onyx Informer would like to extend a welcoming hand in hopes that you will join us in creating all of the moving thoughts that comprise this publication. For more information on how to do so, e-mail us at onyxinformer@yahoo.com

SURVEYING OUR COMMUNITY

27

Words: Candice J. Shaw

In an attempt to participate and ultimately try to make a difference in the lives of people neighboring the Northeastern University community, I organized a voter's registration drive as well as a survey at the Dudley Square Bus Station in the heart of Roxbury.

Though the voter's registration did not fulfill the expectations that I had, it was a moment to be proud of the fact that such an event even existed.

There were five questions asked in the survey with room for additional comments. Close to 30 individuals participated in the survey. Though the survey did not ask specific details pertaining to the age, sex, and/or income of the participant, it still served its purpose by allowing us to gain just a little more insight on how people feel about their communities

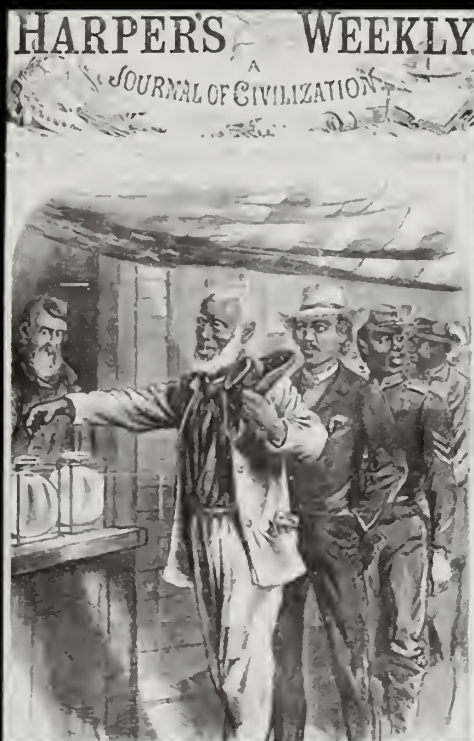


What are the biggest problems within our community?

The most popular answer was violence and drugs. People also mentioned the lack of unity among each other and the lack of programs for children including the lack of recreational centers. One person wrote, "our jobs are given to people from other towns." This is largely in part because Boston is made up primarily of individuals who are attending college, many of the jobs are taken by students who for the most part are from out of town.

Do you feel anything is being done to solve these problems? If so, what is being done?

Forty percent of those who answered said no. Many agreed that more could be done. As one person mentioned, "...as a people and a group, we can solve anything."



What are possible solutions to these problems?

"Can't we all just get along." The famous phrase coined by Rodney King. Many of the community members suggested that unity amongst each other is the best solution for the problems that exist. They also think that more extra curricular programs geared toward children and young adults would help keep them off the streets. Overall, if problems are to be solved then people need to get involved and make a contribution in their community.

How do you feel about the connection between college students and residents of the surrounding community? Is there a connection? (Positive) (Negative)

Participants largely agreed that they didn't see any connection between students and residents

"There really isn't any connection. The residents mind their business and the college students mind theirs," one person answered. "I feel that there is a limited connection. I also feel that colleges could contribute more to the community," wrote another. There was

also commentary on the relationship of the college itself as a cause of dissension between the two communities.

"Right now, [the relationship] is negative because the institutions are buying up our community and push people of color out."

What are you willing to do to improve our community?

The answers to this question varied, but most everyone responded that they want to do something for the community or were already making their contributions.

In conclusion, I will share with you every additional comment that was made. And as I conclude, I hope that you, the reader of this article, think about what contributions that you are making for your community. If you have not done so, then maybe its time to begin.

"Let us be and let us live life!"

"We need more open meetings like this!!"

"We are all human, so lets unite and come together for our community."

"God bless our 'legacy'"

"Try your best. Also, do something about the problems."

"Make sure this survey comes into effect."

"I'm thankful for seeing the students trying to better our community."

"Make connections to ACE plus the greater Boston EJ network and keep you involved from start to finish in everything!"

"Just make people realize their mistakes and help them correct those mistakes."

"We need to start setting up foundations for ourselves, stores, food stores, business, Black and Black owned."

"I'm the greatest."



Heaven's ring

I saw love with an open endurance of time
It was a glimpse of the sweetest thing
possible
An abstraction maybe or a glimpse of the
real thing
longing to be held.
Love in a moment, holding the days close.
Holding on to the discovery of all that was
in Heaven's ring.

Charlyn



REALITY

This world is equal for men and women
each treated fairly
and not judged
all on the same page turning to the next
TOGETHER
Reality this is not
In a country, in a world we are promised
FREEDOM
It is the very thing we are deprived of
right in front of us, dangling in our faces
we lack It
we lack Freedom
We are chained in a society ran by value
not be values
Handcuffed in Poverty
Jailed by the Economy
still we have no freedom
That Is Reality
We continue to be in a barrel with
Whips and sticks
Sticks bricks and myths
.....They trail behind us
Leading in front of us.....
there is no way out it seems
We must stand up that is
Unite and free your sister and brother
For one for all and all for ONE
We will not make it unless we fight as one
RACE
Break these chains and burn those whips
That has tried to break us down
Close maybe...but try again
We will unite and put up that monstrous fight
and in the end
Guess what? Guess who wins?
Us.
That Beautiful Race
That B.L.A.C.K race
That's the reality

Sadie Ruffin